

placed them in jeopardy, and he has been discharged from his office.—Part of the Furness Railway having to run along a marsh called Salthouse Marsh, which is covered by high tides, an embankment was formed whereon to lay the rails. The *Preston Chronicle* reports that, during the late gales, the sea has entirely swept away the whole of the embankment, doing damage to the estimated amount of 2,000*l.*—On the Eastern counties line, the erection of a new and enlarged station at Cambridge, nearly half a mile nearer the town, has been resolved upon. Improvements have been made at the Shoreditch terminus by the completion of a new suite of waiting rooms for the passengers. The new stations at Brentwood are almost completed. They are built of red brick, in the Elizabethan order.—The Barrow viaduct on the Lancaster and Carlisle line is nearly finished. The last arch was keyed in on the 29th ult. The viaduct spans the romantic valley of Borrowdale near its junction with that of the Lune, at an altitude of 68 feet, and is built of a light red freestone, except the interior of the arches, which is composed of brickwork.—The first contract on the Whitby Branch of the York and North Midland line has been taken by Mr. Reed; it is about seven miles in length, from Pickering to Rainfall; and the works have been commenced.

UNDERGROUND ROOMS.

SIR,—Seeing by your valuable publication, there is some chance of the New Building Act undergoing a revision in the next session of Parliament, I beg to call public attention, through the medium of your pages, to Schedule K, which will render tenantless the underground apartments of nearly the whole of the small houses in London after July, 1846, without remunerating the owners for the loss of rent for the same, although each of these houses has been built agreeably to the old Act, and under the inspection of the several district surveyors. Therefore, Sir, I do think that should Schedule K be not entirely erased from the new Act at the expected revision, so far as existing buildings are concerned, some provision should be made to remunerate the owners of such property, who are generally small tradesmen and frugal mechanics, persons who ought to be assisted and not injured by Acts of Parliament. 20,000,000*l.* were not long since voted to remunerate the rich owners of human flesh, whose property in the same was prohibited by Act of Parliament, I therefore ask, upon the broad principles of justice, for remuneration for the owners of small houses that may be effected by Schedule K.

By inserting the above remarks in an early number, you will much oblige, Sir, yours, &c.,
Cumberland Market, Dec. 3rd. W. P.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society was lately held at the Philosophical Society's rooms; the President, the Rev. Professor Willis, in the chair. The President opened the proceedings by reminding the meeting, that the Society had already existed for several years in this University, and had from time to time issued publications, on architectural and other subjects of antiquarian interest. It appeared that several of its existing laws would, if strictly adhered to, confine the Society's operations within very narrow limits, and that it had been proposed to offer some modification of these rules, in order to increase the efficiency of this Society. He considered that members of an University, highly educated as they are, coming as they do from all parts of the United Kingdom, periodically revisiting their homes, or travelling over the whole world, have greater opportunities for the collection and mutual communication of varied and curious information than persons in any other situation. Hence, the limitation of the Society's researches to Cambridge and its vicinity had been in fact practically disregarded. The well-known Society which lately occupied the field of architectural researches in this University having discontinued its meetings here, an opportunity was thus offered for the present society to extend its operations in that department, and for this purpose it was proposed to

hold more frequent meetings, which taking place in the evening (and not as hitherto in the morning) might, it was hoped, assume a more attractive character than they had as yet possessed. He wished it to be clearly understood that, whilst giving to architecture a prominent place among the objects of its labours, the Society was desirous of confining itself to an historical and artistic view of the subject, not interfering with or giving advice for the erection or arrangement of new buildings.

It stated that the subscription to the Society will in future be one guinea annually, and that the evening meetings will be commenced in the ensuing term. The President expressed a hope that he should be enabled at an early meeting, to lay before the Society an architectural account of the recent discoveries in the chapel of Jesus College.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY. PROPOSED UNION OF THE STUDENTS.

ON Wednesday, the 10th., sixteen medals, gold and silver, were distributed amongst the competing students in the various branches of art, including a gold medal with the discourses of Reynolds and West, to Mr. A. Johnson, for the best architectural design for a National Record office; and a silver medal, with the lectures of Barry, Opie, and Fuseli, to Mr. W. Walters, for the best architectural drawing of the Strand front of Somerset House.

Mr. Jones, the keeper, who took the chair in the absence of Sir Martin Shee, read an address to the students, written by the latter for the last distribution. It related principally to the importance which ought always to be attached to the choice of subjects in painting. On this point the president wrote with much earnestness, regretting that it was not always in the power of an artist, who was the most competent person to judge of his genius, to select his own subjects. Then followed some remarks on the general subject of composition, particularly the epic, which the president divided into three branches—the poetical, the classical, and the historical. The whole of these remarks were illustrated by reference to the best examples of the most celebrated painters. In the course of them the president strongly condemned the introduction of discordant objects into pictorial compositions. There were examples among the best painters of these inappropriate introductions, but they were not on that account to be imitated, but rather shunned. The address concluded with some glowing anticipations of the effect the judicious adornment of the new houses of parliament would exercise over art.

The day after the distribution, the students dined together at the Freemason's Tavern, which was chiefly noticeable for the announcement, that it is in contemplation to establish a monthly *conversations*, so that the students may become better acquainted with each other. They are also about to form a museum of costume, which will be of the greatest utility to the student, and an establishment where any large work of art may be executed by any person who does not possess the required accommodation at home.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

At an ordinary meeting, held on Monday evening last, Mr. Tite, vice-president, in the chair, a number of donations were announced, including Mountsaun's Antiquities, from Mr. Foxhall (a handsome gift), and a plan and section of Wren's church, St. Benet's Fink, about to be taken down, from Mr. Edwin Nash. Mr. R. L. Roumieu, of Lancaster-place, and Mr. David Bryce, of Edinburgh, were elected fellows. The chairman then read an elaborate notice of the proceedings taken in building the original Exchange, by Sir Thomas Gresham, and the Exchange built after the great fire in 1666, as derived from the records of the Corporation of London and the Mercers' Company. Mr. Tite also gave an interesting account of the antiquities discovered in preparing for the foundations of the present building, and exhibited a number of the articles that were found. We hope to print the substance of this paper at some length next week.

MR. TITE & MR. ROACH SMITH.

SIR,—The two letters which you have published from Mr. C. R. Smith would have received no further notice from me but for his expression, that I have "falsely" accused him: to this allegation I consider it due to myself to make a very brief and final reply. My principal design is, therefore, to re-assert, in the strongest manner, the truth of the statements I have already made, and which, it will be readily seen, are in the main proved by Mr. S.'s own admissions.

With respect to my power of enforcing my own orders; as the contractors were bound immediately to discharge any person from the works at my instance, it is evident that I could have had no difficulty. This power I should certainly also have exerted if the accusation made by Mr. S. had appeared to me (upon the inquiry made at that time in his presence) well founded.

As to antiquities being subsequently found after the rubbish had been carted away, surely Mr. Smith need not be told that, watched and cautioned as the labourers were, such a story was only to be regarded as a plausible mode of evading, on their parts, very serious legal consequences. If, however, the statement had been true, it would have afforded no justification for not restoring the articles so found to the proper authorities.

With reference to Mr. Smith's plea on the insignificant value of the Medalet, I reply, that the principle of property remains unaltered, and that I certainly did not expect such an answer from an antiquary.

At the close of Mr. Smith's letter, I perceive he uses the term "colleagues." If this has any reference to the members of the Archaeological Association, whether collectively or individually, I beg, in the strongest terms, to deny any idea of connecting my charge against Mr. Smith in any manner with that highly respectable body. I regret, as every friend to archaeology must do, the division into two Societies, but I have never taken part in either. I have valuable personal friends in both; and if, as I understand, the time or circumstance under which my original statement was made, gave colour to an impression that I had either the one or the other in my mind, I beg most distinctly and emphatically to disclaim any such intention. I am, Sir, &c.

WILLIAM TITE.

17, St. Helen's-place, Dec. 17, 1845.

VALUE OF RAILWAY SHARES TO ORIGINAL HOLDERS, AND AT PRESENT PRICES.

The following table, from the *Mining Journal*, will give some idea of the value of railway property for investment, as compared with the funds and other undertakings; it will be seen that, although none of them pay 5 per cent. at present rates, to the original holders, the dividend varies from 3*l.* to 10*l.* per cent.

	Per cent. at present price.	Per cent. on original price.	Amount paid.	Railways.	Div. last half-year.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£.		£. s. d.
10 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	100	Birmingham and Gloucester	10 0 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	Great Northern	7 10 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	Great Western	7 10 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	London and Birmingham	7 10 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	London and Southampton	7 10 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	Manchester and Birmingham	7 10 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	Midland	7 10 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	Sheffield and Manchester	7 10 0
7 10 0	7 10 0	7 10 0	100	York and North Midland	7 10 0